Editor

A Reply

In your issue of Feb. 19 you stated that the Farfield Foundation (which has been named as a conduit for CIA funds) in 1965 made "payments of $143,150 to the Congress (for Cultural Freedom), to P.E.N. (a society of writers) and to Norman Podhoretz, the editor of *Commentary* magazine." You thus conveyed the impression that I or perhaps the magazine I edit has been the recipient of huge sums of money which came indirectly from the CIA.

This is a gross and damaging falsehood. Of the $143,150 figure you mentioned, I personally received exactly $250 to cover my expenses as a delegate to the International P.E.N. Congress in Yugoslavia. Neither then nor at any other time has *Commentary* magazine received funds from the Farfield Foundation or from the CIA.

You further stated that in 1964 Farfield paid $10,392 for "'study and travel fellowships to Mr. and Mrs. Podhoretz'" and for support of the American Society for African Culture. The Farfield tax report for 1964 lists eight names as the recipients of a total of $10,392 for such fellowships.

By singling my name out from that list you once again conveyed the false and damaging impression that I have received large sums of money indirectly from the CIA.

The true facts are that my wife and I, in our capacity as writers, went on a six-day trip to Mexico to meet informally with Mexican writers and intellectuals. We received two economy airfare tickets worth a total of $512 and an additional $320 to cover living expenses.

No conditions were attached by Farfield either to this grant or to the $250 grant for the trip to Yugoslavia. Nor did I make any report to the Foundation or to anyone else at the conclusion of either of these trips.

As a responsible newspaper, *The Washington Post* has the duty to repair the damage it has done me and the magazine I edit by a frank disavowal of the erroneous implications of its Feb. 19 story.

NORMAN PODHORETZ.
New York.